

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 252126

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T STATE 252126

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA, US

SUBJ: SAC OVERFLIGHT AUTHORIZATION

1. BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES AT WASHINGTON DECEMBER 28 US AND CANADA AGREED CONTINUATION THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 1978 OF ARRANGEMENTS NOW IN EFFECT FOR OVERFLIGHTS OF CANADA OF SAC AIRCRAFT PERFORMING AIRBORNE ALERT CARRYING NUCLEAR ARMS.

2. IN PRESENTING NOTE NO. 508 AS PART OF EXCHANGE, CANADIAN EMBOFF (SINGLETON) STATED HE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE ORALLY FOLLOWING POINTS AS BACKGROUND OF CANADIAN RESPONSE TO US PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUATION ARRANGEMENT AND TO ENSURE THAT US UNDERSTOOD HOW GOC INTERPRETS EXCHANGE OF NOTES. HE REFERRED TO AUGUST 1971 "WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE" AND STATEMENTS THEREIN (PAGE 31) RE SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED TO ENHANCE PROTECTION OF NORTH AMERICA AND CONTRIBUTE TO STABLE MUTUAL DETERRENCE, GOC WILLINGNESS CONTINUE ALLOW SAC REFUELLING FROM TANKERS BASED AT GOOSE BAY AND READINESS PERMIT SAC BOMBERS OVERFLY CANADA ON AIRBORNE ALERT IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AS DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENT".

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 252126

EM SINGLETON SAID GOC MUST BE IN POSITION TO DETERMINE THAT STATE OF CRISIS EXISTS BEFORE OVERFLIGHT CAN TAKE PLACE. FURTHER, EACH OVERFLIGHT MUST BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE COMPRISES CLEARANCE FROM CANADIAN DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE, WHOSE APPROVAL IN TURN REQUIRES DECISION BY CABINET ON BASIS OF EMERGENCY CONSULTATIONS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

RM SINGLETON STATED REASON FOR REFERENCE TO FOREGOING POINTS WAS CANADIAN OBSERVATION OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN NORAD EXERCISES. CITING SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF CPX "AMALGAM AMAZON" OCTOBER 11 AND 12, SINGLETON STATED THAT SCENARIO OF EXERCISE DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF NECESSARY PRIOR CONSULTATION AT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS PRIOR TO THEORETICAL NORTHWARD LAUNCHING OF NUCLEAR ARMED SAC BOMBERS. GOC LED BY THIS TO WONDER*WHETHER S C IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT CONSULTATIONS THAT AUTOMATICALLY *KE PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH* SUCH MILITARY EXER*ISES ALSO SATISFY REQUIRMENT OF CON-MULTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS. GOC WISHES MAKE CLEAR ITS POSITION THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND RAISES MATTER TO ENSURE THAT PRESENT EXCHANGE OF NOTES IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AND NOT BLANKET CLEARANCE FOR OVERFLIGHTS. SINGLETON REQUESTED ORAL CONFIRMATION THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SAC HAVE SAME UNDERSTANDING AS GOC IN THIS MATTER.

5. WE AGREED FURNISH SUCH CONFIRMATION IN DUE COURSE.

6. POUCHING TEXTS OF NOTES.
KISSINGER

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